absoluteinc

VOL. 11, ISSUE 31, MUMBAI | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

NATION

Maha: Cong claims 'private collector' taking tax on 36 sq km...



HOLYWOOD

Greta Gerwig named Cannes Film Festival 2024 jury president ...

SPORTS

Shreyas Iyer returns as Kolkata **Knight Riders skipper for IPL...**



BJP Posts Parliament Accused's Selfie With Trinamool MLA

BLAME GAME STARTED

Lalit Jha, the alleged mastermind of the security breach in parliament that shocked the nation, has surrendered. Sources said he had gone to the police station on Kartavya Path (the boulevard renamed 'Path of Duty' in the heart of Delhi) and surrendered. He has been formally arrested and the New Delhi District Police has handed him over to the Special Cell. The Kolkata-based teacher was arrested from Delhi after being on the run for nearly two days.

Team Absolute New Delhi

Purported photos of Lalit Jha, alleged mastermind of the parliament mastermind of the parliament security breach, with a Trinamool Congress leader have become the latest flashpoint between the party and the BJP. While the BJP has accused the Trinamool and the whole of INDIA bloc of being complicit in the breach, the Trinamool has pointed out that it is BJP's Mysuru MP wo has been accused of being instrumental in issuing a pass to the two intruders.

Mysuru MP Prathap Simha has been in the eye of the storm since yesterday after it was found that his office has put in the request for visitor's passes for Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan, who had smuggled in smoke bombs to parliament's visitors' gallery. They had activated the bombs in the middle of the proceedings, one of them



jumping off the gallery onto the Lok Sabha

accused, apart from asking the Lok Sabha Secretariat -- which is supposed to screen visitors -- to issue passes.

The INDIA bloc parties have demanded that Mr Simha be questioned, declaring the security breach as a terrorist act.

At least one of the men who breached security today is linked to his constituency. Manoranjan D, 35, is a Bachelor of Engineering graduate from Mysore Vivekanand University in Bengaluru and his father stays in Mysore's Vijaynagar.

'NEED TO BE CAREFUL': **RAJNATH SINGH**

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday issued a statement on the security breach in Parliament as he cautioned all MPs against issuing entry passes to anyone. This is the first statement from the government a day after two men intruded the Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour and sprayed yellow gas in a major scare. The opposition has been demanding a statement from either PM Modi or Union home minister Amit Shah.

"It was an unfortunate incident. There are no two opinions about it. And you (Speaker) ordered an inquiry into the incident immediately. All MPs -- both govt and the opposition -- should be alert to not issue passes to someone who can create such an anarchic situation in the House," Rajnath Singh.

"Also, I want to bring this to your (Speaker) notice that in our old building too, there were incidents of sloganeering, jumping like this. So in my opinion, we all should come together to condemn the incident," the defence minister said.

Eight Lok Sabha personnel were suspended as the security breach took place when they were on their duty. The home ministry ordered a probe and five accused have been arrested under stringent an terror charges of the UAPA.

आर्एसएस की सक्रियता और बीजेपी का बाउंसबैक

अभी हाल ही में आए तीनों हिन्दी बेल्ट के चुनाव परिणाम सभी के लिए चौंकाने वाले रहे। किसी को भी इन परिणामों की उम्मीद नहीं थी और न ही कोई ये मान रहा था कि बीजेपी इन सभी राज्यों में इस तरह के परिणाम लाने की स्थिति में है परंत् सिर्फ संघ का ये विश्वास. कि अगर जन जन तक पहँचकर सरकार की उपलब्धियों को बताया जाये तो सत्ता दूर नहीं और संघ ने अपनी सिक्रयता बढ़ा दी । केवल तीन महीनों में ही तीनों राज्यों में जिनमें मध्यप्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़ एवं राजस्थान में संघ के सभी अनुषांगिक संगठन की ज़मीनी सिक्रयता बढ़ा दी गई और जन जागरण टोली बनाकर घर घर जाकर संपर्क कर बीजेपी की उपलब्धियों को पहँचाना शरू कर दिया। जिसका परिणाम सिर्फ तीन महीने की मशककत ने तीनों राज्यों में लगभग हारी हुई बाजी बीजेपी के झोले में डाल दी और सत्ता में वापिसी की । फिर अपने मेहनत का फल भी तीनों राज्यों में अपने पसंद का मुख्यमंत्री बनवाकर और अपनी ताकृत का

इन तीनों राज्यों में हारी हुई बाज़ी जीत कर ये फिर्स से हिस्सा हिया कि जो लोग ये समझते है कि संघ कमजोर हो गया है और उनका ही एक अनुषांगिक गुजनीतिक संगठन बीजेपी ज्यादा रुक्षम हो गया है वे राभी बीजेपी के क्षत्रप इस पिर्णाम के बाद ये ज़रूर स्रोचने पर् मजबूर हो गये होंगे कि व्यक्ति कभी बड़ा बहीं होता संगठन ही सर्वोपित् है ।

चेहरे जिनका नाम दूर दूर तक मुखमंत्री की रेस में नहीं था, को सीएम बनवाकर हर एक छोटे कार्यकर्ता को संदेश दिया कि पार्टी ही सर्वोपरि है कोई छत्रप नहीं ! इसलिए हर कार्यकर्ता की निष्ठा संगठन में होना चाहिए न कि किसी व्यक्ति ये तीनों मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश से श्री मोहन यादव , छत्तीसगढ़ से विष्णु देव साय , एवं राजस्थान से भजन लाल शर्मा अपने आरंभिक

राजनीतिक काल में आरएसएस के सि्कय

कार्यकर्ता रहे और संगठन की बारीकियों को

अहसास भी कई छत्रपों को करवा दिया

जिनको लगता था, कि बीजेपी उनके भरोसे ही

चल रही है । चाहे वो शिवराज . रमनसिंह या

वस्ंधरा ही क्यों न हों। तीनों राज्यो में संघ से

अपना कैरियर स्टार्ट करने वाले बिलकल नए

सीखा। लगातार जुमीनी राजनीति करते रहे और संगठन के एक आम कार्यकर्ता के तौर पर सि्कय रहे। इसी का परिणाम है, कि सभी दिग्गजों को दरिकनार कर संघ ने इनको राज्य का मुखिया जैसा बड़ा पद दिलवाने की सिफ़ारिश की । संघ की अपनी कार्यप्रणाली है जिसमे साइलेंट तौर पर जुमीनी कार्य किए जाते है और प्रोपेगंडा से अपने आप को बचा कर रखा जाता है। अनुशासन एवं गोपनीयता बड़े मलमंत्र के साथ बिना हो हल्ला मचाये अपने लक्ष्य को कैसे प्राप्त करना है वो संघ से सीखने को मिलता है। इन तीनों राज्यों में हारी हुई बाजी जीत कर ये फिर से दिखा दिया कि जो लोग ये समझते है कि संघ कमजोर हो गया है और उनका ही एक अनुषांगिक राजनीतिक संगठन बीजेपी ज़्यादा सक्षम हो गया है वे सभी बीजेपी के क्षत्रप इस परिणाम के बाद ये जरूर सोचने पर मजबर हो गये होंगे कि व्यक्ति कभी बड़ा नहीं होता संगठन ही सर्वोपरि है। बिना स्वार्थ और संगठन के लिए निष्ठा से कार्य ही जीत का मूलमंत्र होता है। बीजेपी के हर छोटे और बड़े कार्यकर्ता को सीखना चाहिये ना की खद को बड़ा समझ कर अपने ही पेरो में कल्हाड़ी मारना चाहिए जैसा कि अभी हाल में कई बीजेपी के क्षत्रपों ने अनुभव किया । तीनों राज्यों के सभी मुख्यमंत्रियों को बधाई और कामना की ये सभी जनहित के कार्यों को प्राथमिकता से

SIMHA TO GET SUPPORT FROM PART

After 7 months, 64 bodies of riot victims in Manipur handed

over to kin, tribal body calls for 12-hr shutdown for last rites

The bodies were airlifted to

the respective districts in com-

Court's direction on dignified

The Committee on Tribal

Unity (COTU) said: "Much

awaited homecoming of our

fallen brothers and sisters after

a long tumultuous over seven

months of despair, heartbreak

pliance with the Supreme

burial of the victims

Bengaluru: The BJP MP Pratap Simha is expected to receive support from the saffron party, as per the sources.Former minister and senior BJP leader K.S Eshwarappa said that one cannot condemn a patriot and Hindutva ideologue like Pratap Simha in connection with the Parliament security breach case. Congress leaders said that Simha is unlikely to get a ticket in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, which is why he is indulging in creating controversies. The Congress party alleged that Simha has close connections with the arrested accused Manoranjan D who breached Parliament security and staged a

Manoranjan and his associate Sagar Sharma were issued passes by the Pratap Simha office Political analysis Channabasappa Rudrappa said that Simha Siddaramaiah.

canister smoke attack.

Imphal | Agencies

he bodies of 64 victims,

which have been lying in

morgues of different hos-

pitals since ethnic riots broke

seven months ago, were hand-

ed over to their families under

According to the officials, of

the 64 bodies, 60 bodies were

Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of

Medical Sciences (JNIMS) and

Imphal while four bodies were

Churachandpur district hospi-

Of the 60 bodies, 41 shifted

to Churachandpur and 19 in

Kangpokpi districts while four

out in Manipur more than

tight security measures on

Thursday, officials said.

lying in morgues of the

the Regional Institute of

kept at the morgue in

Medical Sciences (RIMS) in

is not one to play a diplomatic or safe game in politics."He always takes risks and is articulate. He likes to jump in and is one of the few active MPs. I don't think the party is going to initiate any action against him," Rudrappa

said.Sources said Simha, who hails from the Vokkaliga community, also maintains a good relationship with the former PM Deve Gowda's family. Following alliance between BJP and JD(S), Simha's position has further consolidated in the Vokkaliga-dominated Mysuru-Kodagu constituency. The alliance has already taken care of internal opposition to Simha, sources said. Besides, Simha also enjoys unconditional support from the RSS and Hindutva groups. He has also challenged the top leadership of Karnataka Congress especially the Chief Minister

tually reached their resting

place here in our homeland."

total shutdown within Sadar

Hills of Kangpokpi on Friday

for conducting the funeral

ple to cooperate with them.

es and funeral parties are

floor - before being overpowered by the MPs and the securitymen. The alleged mastermind was Lalit Jha, a

teacher from Bengal, who is now on the

Today, Bengal BJP chief Dr Sukanto Majumdar posted a photo of Lalit Jha on X, formerly Twitter, with senior Trinamool leader Tapas Roy. The caption read, "Lalit Jha, the mastermind of the attack on our Temple of Democracy, had been in close association with TMC's Tapas Roy for a long time... Isn't this proof enough for investigation into the connivance of the leader?"

It was picked by the BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya, who alleged that "So far, people involved in the entire episode have been found to have links with the Congress, CPI(Maoist) and now the TMC".

The Trinamool hit back, alleging that the BJP's "internal failings led to this unprecedented breach of Parliament's security".

Yesterday, investigators said Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan had managed to secure visitors' passes by request from Prathap Simha's office.

Simha - a 42-year-old f has denied any connection with the

Mahadev App case

Maha govt forms SIT to probe Dawood Ibrahim brother's involvement

Nagpur | Agencies

aharashtra government on Thursday ormed a Special Investigating Team (SIT) to probe the involvement of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's brother, Mustakim, in the Mahadev App case.

The Mahadev App is known for betting and thereby defrauding gullible public to tune of crores of rupees.

The COTU called a 12-hours Replying to a 'Calling Attention Motion' raised by Ashish Shelar (BJP) in the state assembly, Shelar services and appealed the peoalleged that an FIR against the App was registered on November 7 for defrauding However, emergency servicthe small banks to the tune of exempted from the purview of crores of rupees and the 28



per cent government service tax was also not paid. Mustakim and Amit Sharma -- business partner -of Dawood Ibrahim are accused of pumping finances in J.P Infrastructure, a building construction firm of Vijay Jain. Amit Sharma and Jain are partners in a building project J.P Dek in Dindoshi which was funded by Rashesh Shah and Edelweiss

Hours after suspending 14 MPs, LS Secretariat revokes suspension of SR Prathiban

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Lok Sabha Secretariat on Thursday said that a total of 13 MPs have been suspended from the Lok Sabha and the suspension of DMK MP SR Prathiban has been revoked after he was mistakenly suspended.

In an official order, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said: "Suspension of Members from the service of the House under Rule 374. Hibi Eden, T.N. Prathapan, Ramya Haridas, Dean Kuriakose, S. Jothimani, V.K. Sreekandan, Benny Behanan, Mohammad Jawed, P.R. Natarajan, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, K. Subbarayan, S. Venkatesan and Manickam Tagore B., MPs have been suspended from the service of the House



Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and adopted by the House, for the remainder of the Session beginning

December 14, 2023," it said. It also said that as per Rule 374 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and 'note XXIII' of the Manual on Business and Procedure, when a member is suspended from the service of the House, they cannot enter Chamber, Lobby and Galleries, they stand suspended from sittings of Parliamentary Committees of

which they may be a member, no item is put down in the List of Business in their name, no notice tabled by them is acceptable during the period of their suspension.

It also said that they cannot vote at elections to Committees held during the period of their suspension, and they are not entitled to daily allowance for the period of suspension, if suspended from the service of the House for remainder of Session, as their stay at place of duty cannot be regarded as 'residence on duty' under section 2(d) of Salary

Among the suspended MPs, nine are from Congress, one from DMK, two from CPI-M and one from CPI.

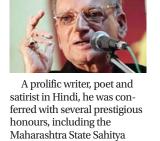
Earlier in the day, 14 Lok Sabha MPs were suspended including Parthiban.

Veteran Hindi poet-writer-satirist Madhup Pandey dies at 82

Nagpur | Agencies **T**eteran Hindi litterateur

Madhup Pandey -- the 'guru' of Union minister Nitin Gadkari -- passed away following a brief illness at his residence early on Thursday, his close friends said here.He was 82 and is survived by his wife Madhulika and daughter Madhuli, said a family acquaintance. Pandey's last rites were performed at the Ambazari Ghat crematorium on Thursday evening in the presence of a large number of literary figures, Hindi scholars, friends and fans.

As per his last wishes, Pandey's eyes were donated since he desired "to see people smiling with his eyes" after his



among others. He was the co-director of

the first World Hindi Conference and participated in or organised several other national and international literary meets, programmes etc.

Academy Hindi Sevi Award,

SahityaShri, Hasya Ratna, and

Vidarbha Hindi Sahitya Award,

bodies were taken to Imphal. and hopelessness have even-**SC DISMISSES REVIEW PLEA FILED BY MANISH SISODIA**

AGAINST DENIAL OF BAIL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed the review plea filed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia against denial of bail to him in the alleged liquor policy scam

"We have carefully perused the review petitions as also the grounds in support thereof. In our opinion, no case for review of the judgment dated 30.10.2023 is made out. The review petitions are, accordingly, dismissed," said a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S.V.N. Bhatti in its order passed on Wednesday. The bench declined to give an oral hearing of the review petition and dismissed it in chambers by circulation.Ordinarily, review pleas filed under Article 137 of the Constitution are tested on very narrow grounds like mistakes of law, error apparent on face of record, etc.

ARMY RESCUES 1,217 STRANDED TOURISTS IN SIKKIM

Gangtok | Agencies

he Army has rescued 1.217 tourists stranded due to heavy snowfall and inclement weather in high altitude areas in east Sikkim, officials said on Thursday.

Defence spokesman Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said that the tourists including elderly, women and children got stranded in high altitude areas of east Sikkim since Wednesday following which the troops of Trishakti Corps swung into immediate action to start the rescue operation.

The rescue missions continued overnight and the rescued tourists were moved to safe areas and provided shelter, warm clothing, medical aid and hot meals. The soldiers vacated their barracks to enable accommodation of the stranded



Company.

tourists. Civil administration officials are moving from Gangtok to 17 mile point to coordinate their move back

to Gangtok. The quick reaction by the troops provided relief and comfort to the stranded tourists, who

expressed their deep gratitude for the immediate relief provided by the Indian Army

PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH: DELHI COURT SENDS FOUR TO 7-DAY POLICE CUSTODY

Team Absolute New Delhi

Delhi court on Thursday sent four accused persons, arrested in connection with the Parliament security breach case, to seven days' police custody.

The accused individuals -- Sagar Sharma, Manoranjan D, Neelam Azad and Amol Shinde -- were produced before the Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Hardeep Kaur of Patiala House Courts after the police arrested them on Wednesday.

Delhi Police has registered an FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against the accused and is investigating the security lapse issue, too.

During court proceedings, the prosecution labeled the arrested individuals as terrorists, asserting that they orchestrated a well-planned attack on Parliament with the intention of inciting fear. The police informed the court that they have included Sections 16 (terrorism) and 18 (conspiracy for terrorism) of the UAPA Act in the charges



The police said that individuals exceeded their rights by jumping from the gallery into the seating area of the MPs, constituting trespass.

Furthermore, the police claimed that the accused concealed a canister in

their shoes and stressed on the need for their custody to determine their actual motive and identify any other individuals involved. "Special shoes made in Lucknow, which needs to be probed. They need to be taken to Mumbai,

Mysore, Lucknow for the probe," police told the court. The court appointed legal aid counsel for the accused individuals after they stated that they did not have their own lawyers. In response, the defense counsel opposed the police's application, suggesting that a few days would be sufficient for the investigation. Police further submitted that the accused carried pamphlets that showed and declared Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a missing person with a caption that the person who finds him will be paid money from a Swiss Bank. "The accused persons portrayed PM like a proclaimed offender," police said. The case revolves around a major security breach on the 22nd anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, where individuals jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber, released vellow gas, and shouted slogans before being subdued by MPs.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also ordered an enquiry into the breach under the leadership of DG CRPF Anish Dayal Singh along with other members from security agencies

Four men, accused of sexual assault, acquitted by Delhi court after eight years

statement of the prosecutrix,

noting her presence with the

26, 2016. However, it raised

concerns about the unclear

January 26 and January 31.

whereabouts of the pros-

culprits until 7 a.m on January

ecutrix between the evening of

Due to this ambiguity and

Team Absolute New Delhi

Delhi court has acquitted four men almost eight years after they were accused of sexually assaulting a woman.

Additional Sessions Judge Rajinder Singh expressed doubts about the prosecution's case and stressed the need to give the benefit of the doubt to the accused.

The charges against the accused included one individual being charged under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) while the others faced charges under section 376D (gang

The prosecution alleged that the woman, employed as a domestic help, was raped twice by the accused and his accomplices after leaving her employer's house to meet someone on January 25, 2016.

the delay in reporting the matter, the court found the prose-The court considered the

The judge noted that the prosecutrix failed to identify all the accused in court, and

there was a lack of forensic or medical evidence connecting them to the alleged incident of rape. Consequently, the court concluded that the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt, leading to the acquittal

Nagaland Police busts one of largest drug trafficking network involving NE states, Punjab

Kohima Agencies

he Nagaland Police have busted one of the largest drug-trafficking networks spreading across northeastern states and Punjab, Director General of Police Rupin Sharma said on Wednesday.

The DGP said that two drug peddlers from Manipur were arrested from Sechu Zubza in Kohima district on Wednesday and some heroin was recovered from their possession."Upon interrogation, it was revealed that the two accused are suspected to have trafficked around 60 kg of heroin worth about Rs 400 crore within one year," the police chief told the media at the police headquarters.

Sharma said the police have so far nabbed 12 persons who are part of this multi-state drugs network and the traffickers belong to Nagaland, Manipur, and Assam.

The drug trafficking networks is mainly active in Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Punjab as well as possibly other states of the country, he added.

He said that the case is under thorough investigation and added that there might be



many other people involved in this multiple states' network, which would be unearthed soon.Sharma said that since January, a total of 318 cases have been registered and 456 persons have so far been arrested in connection with the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Nagaland has a 215-km unfenced international border with Myanmar and has inter-state borders with Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh and both are being used by the drug peddlers for illegal trade of various drugs and other contrabands besides arms and ammuni-

Maha: Cong claims 'private collector' taking tax on 36 sq km of govt land in Thane

Nagpur (Maharashtra) Agencies

he Maharashtra Congress on Thursday claimed that a massive plot of land measuring over 36 sq km in Thane district was allegedly transferred illegally to a private party which is now 'collecting' whopping taxes on it from the locals, here on

State Congress President Nana Patole raised the issue in the legislature on the plot of land admeasuring around 8,995 acres in Thane's Mira-Bhayander town that was reportedly transferred to the Estate Investment Co. Pvt. Ltd., violating provisions of the Urban Land Ceiling Act.

Patole contended that in September 2008, the then Thane Collector had unauthorisedly transferred the land to the EICPL which had made a claim on around 12 sq km (2,905 acres) of land there.

However, in December 2015, then Thane Collector had transferred a total of 8,995 acres to the company, and the EICPL's name also figures on the 7/12 extract along with other owners, added Patole.

Owing to such flouting of the ULC Act, Section 20, almost the entire government land in Mira-Bhayander twin-town, bordering Mumbai, had become controversial, creating huge hassles for the people there."On account of this, the people of Mira-Bhayander have to pay a hefty 'tax' of around 20 per



cent/sq.ft to this company, for conducting any type of land transactions. This company is functioning like a

collect money from government land in this fashion?" Patole questioned.

Replying to Patole's query, Revenue Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil said that the matter is currently sub-judice as the company had brought a court injunction in 2017. However, he assured that the government will take legal advice to first get the stay lifted and then initiate appropriate action in the matter.

Independent sources point out that this matter is one of many such suspected scams pertaining to the ULCA with large tracts of lands being allegedly

grabbed with the help of purported fake documents. Patole further claimed that the EICPL has been indulging in other illegalities there pertaining to violation of CRZ norms, chopping off mangroves and other irregularities. Demanding that the government conduct a thorough probe, Patole sought to know what is the 'relationship' between EICPL and certain government officials and how was the company able to collect such heavy taxes illegally on land belonging to the

The Congress leader added that many buildings and societies constructed in the pre-2008 period in Mira-Bhayander twin towns are now due for redevelopment, but flat buyers-sellers are facing problems of conveyance, with applications being rejected and all this has created huge unrest among the local popula-

Slim chances for House to function until HM NO CASUALTIES IN VIZAG HOSPITAL FIRE Shah makes a statement: Jairam Ramesh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

itting out at ruling BJP government for the suspension of opposition MPs who were raising their demands over the Parliament security breach, the Congress on Thursday said that till the time the Home Minister Amit Shah does not make a statement in the House, there are slim chances for the House to func-

Speaking to the media outside Parliament after the suspension of 15 opposition MPs -- 14 from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha -- for the remainder of the Winter Session, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said, "We had just one demand that the Home



Minister come to the House and give a statement (over Lok Sabha security breach)."Taking a swipe at the BJP, Ramesh said that this "dictatorial government" does not find it acceptable as we tried our best that the Leader of Opposition should get a chance to speak in the House."This (security breach) is a very serious matter and an

investigation underway. We wanted a statement from the Home Minister. Unless he comes to the House and does that, there are very slim chances for the House to function," the

Congress Rajya Sabha MP said.He said

debate". "We do want discussions but

the biggest issue is - how and why did

that "we wanted a constructive

this (security breach) happened, how the security was breached and entire country witnessed it? The Prime Minister and Home Minister are silent. They should come to both Houses and give statements. After that the House will function," the Congress leader

Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "I have been given the message that what is your demand. Our demand is same, that at least the Home Minister should come to the House and give a statement. If we (the opposition) are given a chance to ask two to four questions, we will do that."said that the MPs come from outside to participate in the House proceedings.

Visakhapatnam | Agencies

ll patients were safely evacuated from a private hospital which caught fire in Visakhapatnam on

Thursday. No casualties were reported in the fire at Indus Hospital, police said. About 60 patients were evacuated and shifted to

other hospitals. Some patients and hospital staff members were rescued by firefighting personnel with the help of ladders.

Ten fire tenders were pressed into service to extinguish the fire. Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner A. Ravi Shankar said all patients were safely evacuated and shifted to other hospitals. He said the fire



started from an operation theatre around 11 a.m. and spread to other parts.

Black smoke had enveloped the hospital building located at

Jagadamba Circle in the port city. The incident sent panic among patients and their attendants. Fire fighting personnel and police rushed to the spot and launched the rescue operation.

Short-circuit is suspected to have caused the fire. Meanwhile, district collector Mallikarjuna has constituted a committee to probe the incident. The five-member committee comprises Revenue Divisional Officer, District Medical and Health Officer, District Fire Officer, District Coordinator of Hospital Services and Assistant Commissioner of Police.

The committee has been directed to submit the report in 24 hours

ALLAHABAD HC GIVES NOD FOR SURVEY IN KRISHNA JANAMBHOOMI DISPUTE



Prayagraj: In a significant decision impacting the ongoing Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah Mosque dispute in Mathura, the Allahabad High Court has approved a request to appoint a commission to rspect the Idgah Mosque. On December 18, the court vill decide the constitution of

The Allahabad High Court's decision to allow the inspection of the Mosque is a significant development in the longstanding

It has also transferred also transferred two new suits concerning the dispute to itself and directed the District Judge in Mathura to provide notice to the relevant parties about the transfer. The decision, made by Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, comes in response to an application filed by the deity Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman and seven others.

This application is part of an original suit pending in the court and claims that Lord Sri Krishna's birthplace lies beneath the mosque. The application also notes that there are visible signs of the Mosque being a Hindu temple, including a lotusshaped pillar and an image of Sheshnaag, a Hindu deity associated with Lord Krishna. As a result, the appointment of a commission was deemed essential. The suit also seeks a declaration that the land in dispute, including the area where the Shahi Idgah Mosque is located, belongs to the deity Lord Shree Krishna Virajman. It further requests a direction to the defendants, including the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, to remove the mosque.

Kamal Nath's Facebook BJP MLAs take oath after boycotting account 'hacked'

Team Absolute Bhopal

ormer Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh unit Congress president Kamal Nath's Facebook account has been hacked by some unknown persons, his office claimed on Thursday.

Piyush Babele, who is Kamal Nath's media advisor, said that the account had been hacked by some unknown person and some irrelevant content was shared. He further added that an IT team of Kamal Nath's has been working to recover the account.

"The Facebook account of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee President and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has been hacked. Hackers are posting irrelevant content on it. We are trying to recover the account," Babele

Kamal Nath, who was in Chhindwara for the last few days and was participating in public meetings after the election, arrived in Bhopal on Thursday.

Earlier on Thursday, the Madhya



Pradesh Congress held a meeting at party headquarters and discussed the future course of action in view of the coming Lok Sabha

election. A meeting was held in the presence of Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala, who is in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijava Singh.

During the meeting, the Congress leaders also discussed the leader of the opposition.

Protem Speaker Akbaruddin Owaisi **Hyderabad** Agencies

he newly-elected BJP MLAs in Telangana Assembly on Thursday took oath before Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar after refusing to take oath before Protem Speaker Akbaruddin Owaisi.

appointed Protem Speaker

in violation of rules as there

were other members who

were senior to him. The BJP

Soundararajan about his

had complained to

Governor Tamilisai

Soon after Prasad Kumar was unanimously elected as the Speaker, the BJP MLAs attended the House and took oath. All eight MLAs of the saffron party had boycotted the proceedings on sections of the people in December 9 to protest appointment of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA Owaisi as the Protem Speaker. The saffron party had alleged that Owaisi was

pursuit of appeasement politics. It had urged the Governor to set aside the nomination of Owaisi as Protem Speaker and withhold the process of election of a new full-time Speaker for the newly-constituted assembly pending nomination of a senior most mem-

ber as Speaker. When the

Assembly met for the day

on Thursday, Owaisi started

the proceedings. The MLAs appointment and alleged in a memorandum that the who could not take oath on Congress government in December 9 were called to the state wilfully violated complete the formalities. norms to pander to certain Minister Komatireddy

Venkat Reddy, Uttam Kumar Reddy, BRS MLAs Kadiam Srihari, K. T. Rama Rao, P. Kaushik Reddy, K. Prabhakar Reddy, T. Padma Rao and P. Rajeshwar Reddy took the oath.Though the names of BJP MLAs were announced, they did not turn up. Only after Prasad Kumar

was elected Speaker and he assumed the chair, BIP MLAs attended the House and took oath

15 INJURED IN GAS CYLINDER BLAST IN HYDERABAD BAKERY

Hyderabad: Fifteen workers were injured in a cooking gas cylinder explosion in a bakery kitchen in Hyderabad on Thursday.

The injured have been admitted to a hospital, where the condition of six of them is stated to be critical.Police said the explosion occurred in the kitchen of Karachi Bakery in Gagan Pahad area under the limits of Rajendranagar Police Station on the city out-

Eight injured were admitted to Apollo DRDO Hospital at Kanchanbagh.Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had expressed grief over the incident and has directed officials to ensure that the injured get the best treatment. Officials informed the

Chief Minister that most of the injured were workers from Uttar Pradesh.

17 lakh Maharashtra govt employees strike work for OPS, services hit

Team Absolute | Mumbai

ver 17 lakh Maharashtra government employees went on a day's token strike on Thursday to press for their 18-point demand charter, the prime being implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), leaders said.

The strike covered all government departments, including schools, colleges, hospitals from the block to the state level, hitting public services in many places.

This was the second strike this year for OPS, the first one being in March for the same demand after which Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had appointed a panel to study the OPS and the New Pension Scheme.

The panel, comprising top exbureaucrats like Subodh Kumar, K. P.



Bakshi and Sudhir Kumar, has recently submitted its report to the state government.

The staffers, under the Maharashtra State Government Employees Association (MSGEA) have taken out a massive procession

in Nagpur in the past two days coin-

ciding with the Winter Session of the Legislature there.

This week, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who holds the Finance portfolio, said that the government would study the panel report and positively consider the demand for OPS before the 2024 Assembly elections.

Later, he assured that the government would take a decision before the upcoming budget session of the legislature in the first quarter of 2024.

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis has also committed that the government is positive towards the OPS but appealed to the state employees to call off their agitation.

The duo said that the government would study the financial implications of the OPS vis-a-vis the NPS and take a decision accordingly.

Meanwhile, the government staffers on strike, organised demonstrations and protests in different parts of the state today, including Mumbai, Nagpur, Thane, Raigad, Pune and other places, carried banners and posters and raised slogans for immediate implementation of OPS and their other demands.

Decision on old pension scheme to be taken in next budget session: Eknath Shinde



Team Absolute Mumbai

aharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Thursday said that the government will study the recommendations of the Subodh Kumar committee over the issue of old pension scheme (OPS) and take a decision on it in the next budget session of the legislature.

Speaking in the legislative assembly during the Winter Session, Shinde said two additional chief secretaries will study the committee's report before the decision is made. The Chief Minister's announcement came hours after the government as well as semi-government employees and officials launched a strike to press for their demand of restoring the OPS.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar told reporters in the Vidhan Bhavan premises here that CM Eknath Shinde has

assured government employees demanding restoration of the OPS that a decision on it will be taken before the upcoming budget session, which is generally held in February-March every year.

CM Shinde said, "The state government is positive towards the demand of the state employees who went on strike today. We need some time to study the Subodh Kumar committee's recommendations. Additional chief secretaries of finance and services departments will study them. The state will take a decision about it in the next budget session." The government received the Subodh Kumar committee's report last week, he told the lower House of the legislature. Under the OPS, a government employee gets a monthly pension equivalent to 50 per cent his/her last drawn salary. There was no need for contribution by

discontinued in the state in

Under the New Pension Scheme, a state government employee contributes 10 per cent of his/her basic salary plus dearness allowance with the state making a matching contribution. The money is then invested in one of the several pension funds approved by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the returns are market-linked.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant Thursday said that the state attracted Rs 28,868 crore of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last three months.

As per the data on FDI released by the Union government, the state has regained its position as recipient of the highest FDI in the country, he said during a discussion in the legislative council in Nagpur.

Two Maoists killed in encounter near Maha-Chhattisgarh border

Team Absolute | Gadchiroli (Maharashtra)

t least two Maoists were killed in an encounter with the police in the forests near the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, an official said here on Thursday.

The incident followed a tip-off that a large contingent of Maoists were camping near Bodhintola, around 10 km from the Godalwahi outpost in Chhattisgarh.

The intel said that the Maoists were planning to ambush and carry out sabotage activities on the security forces and kill local tribals by branding

On receipt of the information, police parties were



deployed to search the area on Thursday morning

The police also retaliated and the exchange of fire went on for nearly an hour.

After the firing stopped, the police teams carried out a search of the area which led to the recovery of the bodies of two Maoists along with their weapons, an AK-47 and an SLR rifle.

One of the slain Maoists has been identified as Durgesh Watti, a deputy commander of the Kasansur Dalam, who was one of the chief conspirators of the deadly Jambulkheda blast of 2019 which killed 15 Gadchiroli Police officials.

Efforts are on to identify the second body. Further combing and search operations in the region are continuing, said an official of Gadchiroli

Parliament security breach: Maha police end grilling of Latur youth's kin; to assist Central teams

Team Absolute Latur

he Maharashtra Police are continuing inves tigations into the involvement of a Latur vouth. Amol Shinde, who is one of the accused in the Parliament security breach case filed by Delhi Police, official sources said here on

Shinde, 25, an Indian Army and police job aspirant, is the youngest of four siblings and lives in Zari Village with his parents - Dhanraj and Kesarbai. He has two brothers and also a sister

Hours after the sensational Parliament security breach in New Delhi on Wednesday, Latur Police, the local Crime Branch and Anti Terrorist Squad teams swooned in on his small dwelling in

Since the house was very small, the police did not close the main door and carried out their investigations in full public view, rummaging through the cupboard, drawers and other places for documents, literature or any evidence to pin-

point Amol's leanings and antecedents. A senior police officer said that he was a dropout after standard XII and was jobless. They have not found any damning leads so far, including criminal history, links with any anti-national



outfits or political entities.

The police took away the mobile phones of the family members, some diaries and other papers und at the Shinde home, a entire village turned out to view the security opera-

"We have completed our preliminary probe... Now the Delhi Police are investigating at their end and we shall offer all cooperation or help required from here," the official, requesting anonymity, told

Today, the Zari Village appeared quiet, with no police presence in uniforms or plainclothes, the locals going about their routine, but the Shinde

family, falling in the SC category, stayed at home. On Wednesday, the scene was different when the Shinde couple suddenly shot into limelight after the Parliament incident as police teams and the paparazzi descended on the sleepy village, around 40 kms from Latur town.

Interrogated first by the police and then questioned by the media-persons, at one point the stunned couple, both farmer labourers, had even asked flat out, "Is our son alive or not?"

They said Amol had left for Delhi on December 9 and called up the next day, saying he had gone there for Army and police recruitments, with earlier failed attempts in Ratnagiri, Nashik, New Delhi

The couple maintained that after his last call to Amol and learnt of the Parliament security breach when the police landed at their doorstep on Wednesday afternoon.

The Shindes claimed Amol was frustrated at not getting a job despite repeated attempts and he was depressed as "time was running out" to get any government jobs. Amol's brothers include one who is a mason doing seasonal jobs in different parts of the state and the other is a daily wager in

80 in hospital with food poisoning after eating at wedding in Nagpur resort

Team Absolute Nagpur

n a case of food poisoning, at least 80 persons were hospitalised as they fell ill after Leating food served during a wedding ceremony at a resort on the outskirts of Nagpur city in Maharashtra, police said today.

The incident took place on December 10, following which the businessman father of the bridegroom lodged a complaint against the resort management alleging that the food served during the function was stale and emitted a foul smell, the police said.

The complainant, Kailash Batra, had booked the Rajasthani village-themed resort located on Amravati Road in Nagpur for two days - on December 9 and 10 - for the wedding of his son and the reception ceremony, an official of Kamleshwar pol where the complaint was lodged, said.

"Trouble began in the afternoon of December 10 when the bridegroom and several guests experienced stomach pain after the meal there. The situation worsened during the reception ceremony the same night, when the food served to guests emitted a foul smell," the official said.

The complainant raised the issue with the



resort management, but it failed to take corrective steps, he said.

"Around midnight, at least 80 guests started vomiting and complained of nausea. They were admitted to a hospital," he said.

Poddar said the officials of Kalmeshwar police station have been directed to record the statements of the hospitalised persons and collect their medical reports based on which a case would be registered against the resort management.

According to police, some of the victims are still undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Wardhaman Nagar area of Nagpur.

Mumbai user placed food orders worth Rs 42.3L on Swiggy this year

Team Absolute New Delhi

ooking back at 'How India Swiggy'd in 2023', the online food delivery platform on Thursday revealed that a user from Mumbai alone spent Rs 42.3 lakh on food orders this year.

The platform received the maximum orders by

user accounts from Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad, who have placed more than 10,000 orders each. Biryani topped the charts as the most-ordered dish on Swiggy for the eighth straight year. India ordered 2.5 biryanis per second in 2023. For every 5.5 chicken biryanis, there was one vegetarian biryani ordered. "Biryani has been searched for a

staggering 40,30,827 times on the platform. Every sixth biryani was ordered from Hyderabad and the champion of the biryani brigade was a Swiggy user from the city who ordered 1,633 biryanis this year. That is more than four biryanis a day," Swiggy said. Gulab Jamuns received over 7.7 million orders during Durga Puja. Alongside garba, Masala Dosa was the top favourite in vegetarian orders for all

nine days of Navaratri. Idli reigned supreme when a

customer from Hyderabad spent Rs 6 lakh on them.



With 8.5 million orders placed for everyone's favourite chocolate cake, Bengaluru was honoured as the 'Cake Capital'. During Valentine's Day in 2023, India ordered 271 cakes per minute, the company said. On Swiggy Instamart, a user from Jaipur placed 67 orders in a single day. The single highest order was worth Rs 31,748. This user from Chennai stocked up on coffee, juice, cookies, nachos, and



chips. This year, Swiggy's delivery partner covered an impressive 166.42 million green kms using electric vehicles and cycles, contributing to sustainable and eco-friendly delivery. Venkatasen, a delivery partner from Chennai, and Santhini from Kochi delivered a whopping 10,360 and 6,253 orders each. Going the extra mile, one of Swiggy's delivery partners travelled 45.5 km to deliver fast food.

Manoj Jarange plans strategy amidst allegations of Maharashtra government's changing statements

Team Absolute Mumbai

aratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Thursday claimed the Maharashtra government has changed its statements on the Maratha quota issue and hence he along with other members of the community will hold a meeting on December 17 to decide on how to take their agitation forward.

Jarange had set December 24 as the deadline before the government to give reservation to Marathas.

A meeting will be held on December 17 at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district to decide on how to take the agitation forward, the activist told reporters at a hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar where he has been admitted.

'We were supposed to hold a meeting of the Maratha community after December 24. But certain things have happened and because of that we are arranging the meeting earlier," he said.

"The government earlier said it will withdraw cases in the Antarwali Sarati incident. Instead they arrested people there. The government changed its statements on Maratha reservation after listening to (state cabinet minister) Chhagan Bhujbal," Jarange claimed.

A protest for Maratha reservation at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna turned violent on September 1 leading to some people including police personnel getting injured.

Jarange said, "The government has also not given us in writing about the Maratha reservation. Bhujbal speaks about violence but action is taken against us.'

Bhujbal, a prominent OBC leader, on Wednesday made a sensational claim saying there is a police input that he may be "shot dead" and revealed he has been receiving abuses and threats since the past two months amid the ongoing agitation for Maratha reservation.



The food and civil supplies minister has been vociferously opposing inclusion of the Marathas under the OBC category for reservation in jobs and education.

Jarange criticised Bhujbal and claimed the minister was making statements to get cases (of alleged corruption) against him with-

"Why would anyone fire bullets at Chhagan Bhujbal, our thinking is not that low. He is making this statement just because he wants to get his security increased. We also faced difficulties but we never cried about that. But I will speak about it on December 24," he added.

Meanwhile, reacting to the threat perception to Bhujbal, Maharashtra Industry Minister Uday Samant has said that the Home Department will take the necessary action after talking to him.

"The safety of the members of the House and people outside the house is the responsibility of the government. Our Home department will take the necessary action after talking to Chhagan Bhujbal as this government is ready to provide safety to everyone...The CM will reply on the Maratha Reservation as soon as possible," he said.

Six held as Maharashtra Police claim to have foiled a robbery bid in Raigad district

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he police in Maharashtra's Raigad district Thursday arrested six persons and claimed to have prevented a robbery at a godown of a company, an official said.

The Khopoli police in the district were alerted

around 12.50 am on Wednesday that a group of men were planning to commit robbery at a godown stocked with iron products, the official said. A team led by inspector Balasaheb Khade of the

local crime branch laid a trap and arrested six men when they arrived at the godown. The police recovered a country-made pistol,

worth about Rs 45,000, with a live cartridge, knives, iron rods and chilli powder from the suspects, he said. A case has been registered against the six under the Indian Penal Code and Maharashtra Police Act, the official said, adding that a local court has remanded them in police custody till December 16.

EDITOR'S SPECS

Exuberant markets touch new high

hanks to the dovish narrative from the US Fed at the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, the Nifty 50 on Thursday scaled to an all-time high level and crossed the 21,100-mark for the first time, said Pranav Haridasan, MD and CEO at Axis Securities. While the Nifty ended at 21,182.70, up 256.35 points, the Sensex closed at 70,514.20, up 929.60 points. Several factors contributed to Nifty's rally. There was a nearly 100 basis point decrease in US 10-year bond yields from their recent peak. The status quo maintained by the RBI, with a positive revision in FY24 GDP from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent, sequential improvement in the high-frequency indicators, and robust earnings growth expectations contributed to this momentum. The election results in three out of four key states have raised the expectations of policy continuity in 2024, boosting market confidence. "We can see a further new high in the market if the bond yields and the crude prices remain at the same levels for the entire month. Largecaps seem better placed at current levels in terms of overall valuations. Based on a favourable macroeconomic picture compared to other emerging markets, flows may shift towards large caps, especially largecap banks, in the near term," Haridasan said. Nagaraj Shetti, Senior Technical Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said that after showing a smart upside recovery from intra-day lows on Wednesday, Nifty witnessed hefty upmove on Thursday and closed the day higher by 256.35 points. After opening with a sharp upside gap of 184 points, the market moved up further soon after the opening. It later shifted into a narrou intra-day range for better part of the ses-

China invoking 'civilisational' strength for its advancement

trategic analysts have noted that President Xi Jinping has in his quest for making China Xi Jinping has in nis question manning the USA, the other superpower rivalling the USA, embarked on a three-fold strategy - he has initiated the process of 'Sinicization' of Marxism, ensured the reassertion of the supremacy of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in every sphere and given a conscious call for recognising the 'civilisational strength of the Chinese nation'

China under Xi is pursuing the economic route to becoming a superpower and wants time to achieve the mission - without running into any distraction of a military confrontation.

This came out clearly in his long bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden during the recent APEC conference in San Francisco - at the end of which Xi would have reasons to feel satisfied with the emphasis Biden had laid on the US not seeking any 'conflict' with China.

The two leaders had largely focused on their commitment to economic growth and global advancement and expressed their agreement on cooperation in such diverse areas as Artificial Intelligence, Environment and Counter-narcotic

Marking the rapid rise of Xi since 2012 when he first became the General Secretary of the CPC, the 19th National Congress of the party held in 2017 incorporated Xi Jinping Thought on 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era' in the Party Constitution.

The People's Congress in March 2018 went on to amend the Constitution of the People's Republic of China to mention Xi's Thought in it. This had happened only twice in the past with the leadership of Mao Dezong and Deng Xiaoping.

Xi's Thought is said to combine Chinese Marxism with National Rejuvenation. It was hailed by the 19th Central Committee of CPC in 2021 in a unanimous resolution as a 'new breakthrough in the Sinicization of Marxism'.

Significantly, Xi's analysis of why the USSR disintegrated was that the party organs of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) had at all levels lost their functions and in particular, the military was no longer under CPSU leadership because of which 'a great party was scattered' and the Soviet Union, 'a great Socialist country', was dismembered.

The 14-point Xi Jinping Thought stipulated among other things, ensuring CPC leadership over all forms of work in China including absolute leadership on PLA, the continuation of comprehensive deepening of reforms, governing



China with the Rule of Law, improving people's livelihood and well-being as the primary goal of development and practising Socialist core values including Marxism-Leninism and 'Socialism with Chinese characteristics'.

A cult of personality has been developing around Xi since he became the General Secretary of the CPC and the country's para-

The party has been projecting him as representing the best of both Mao Dezong and Deng Xiaoping. In 2019, the Politburo of the CPC named Xi as the People's Leader - a title only Mao had held previously.

The Central Party School of the CPC in 2020 labelled Xi Jinping Thought as '21st century Marxism', claimed that it was the only scientific method to explain the 'Chinese Miracle of the 21st century' and contended that it was the only 'solution for the modern problems of humankind'. It maintained that socialism is better than capitalism.

At China's National People's Congress in March 2023 in Beijing, Xi was awarded a third 5year term as President putting him on track to stay in power for life.

In what seems to be a definite element in Xi's strategy, the Chinese President highlights China's 5000-year-old civilisation and places a profound emphasis on the preservation and development of its 'fine cultural traditions'

Xi Jinping Thought seeks to build the party's confidence in history and culture to a new high known for its 'continuity, innovativeness, unity, inclusiveness and peaceful nature'.

Clearly, Xi wants to use China's civilisational strength to advance 'national rejuvenation', promote unity at home and give an impression to the world outside that China stands for peace.

There is an underlying message in Xi Jinping Thought that opposes the 'cultural hegemony of the West' and possibly also counters any attempt of India to use the soft power of an ancient civilisation to deal with a hostile Marxist state next

Xi intends to integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with China's traditional culture as a strategy for dealing with the complex international landscape.

It is appropriate and timely for the Narendra Modi regime to strengthen the sense of nationalism amongst Indians and make them aware of the glorious civilisational past of India that had been, in a substantial measure, shut off by the colonial masters and later kept in oblivion for reasons of politics.

In a multi-religious setting like India, the traditions of ancient culture that promoted the quest for knowledge, upheld an assimilative approach by shunning any claims of supremacism for a particular faith and attached importance to humanism, should be appreciate

ed by all communities and sections of society. All this will automatically generate feelings of national unity and lead to a realistic appraisal of who the nation's friends and enemies are.

It is said that in the court of Lord Ram respect was given to even Sage Charwak who was an advocate of agnosticism. In today's world that faces unanticipated geopolitical shifts, it is vital that a world power like India should try to be selfdependent in handling security, economic growth and international relations. Prime Minister Modi has rightly taken this strategic approach which is already yielding rich divi-

The Sino-Pak axis operating against India remains this country's major security concern in part because of its covert hand behind the propping up of anti-India lobbies on issues like alleged lack of protection for minorities, the 'rise of authoritarianism' and 'promotion of majori-

The two hostile neighbours of India are joining hands in conducting 'covert' operations here the use of Chinese drones by Pakistan for dropping arms and narcotics in Punjab illustrates this.

While India has successfully countered the threat of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan in Kashmir and elsewhere, the challenge from a hostile China spreads from our borders to the Indian Ocean and the entire range of international relations.

Xi is pursuing the ambition of making China the second superpower after the US through economic, military and technological means and having emerged as the supreme leader of China in the mould of Mao Zedong, is driving the strategy of establishing the stranglehold of the CPC on the civil and military affairs on one hand and practising an extremely 'nationalistic' version of Marxism on the other, to achieve total unity internally and speed up the economic and political expansion of Chinese influence outside.

The adversarial profile of China is likely to become harder from India's point of view, in the days ahead.

India has no alternative to building its own strength and firming up its bilateral and multilateral relationships in the democratic world to counter the growing alliance between the Marxist dictatorship of China and a fundamentalist Pakistan that was conniving with the anti-US Islamic radical forces out to increase their foothold in the Muslim world.

(The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal)

international

US House Republicans vote to authorise impeachment inquiry into Biden

Washington Agencies

he Republican-led US House of Representatives has voted to autho-President Joe Biden, in a 221-212 vote along party lines.

"The impeachment power resides solely with the House of Representatives," Xinhua news agency quoted Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, a hardliner within the Republican party, as saying to reporters after the vote late Wednesday night.

"If a majority of the House now says we're in an official impeachment inquiry as part of our constitutional duty to do oversight, that carries weight. That's going to help us get these witnesses in," said the Ohio Republican, one of the leaders of the impeachment push.

Republicans hope that the impeachment inquiry vote would give them better legal standing to hold the President's son Hunter Biden in contempt of Congress should he fail to show.

Hunter Biden, the first child of a sitting president to be criminally indicted, appeared at a news conference outside the Capitol on Wednesday morning, when he again offered to testify in a public hearing,



after refusing to appear at a closed-door deposition Republicans demanded.

As of now, no substantiated evidence has surfaced to demonstrate that President Joe Biden, in his current or past official capacities, engaged in the misuse of his position or accepted illicit payments.

However, ethical concerns have been raised regarding the international business dealings of the Biden family.

In a statement, House Speaker Mike Johnson said the chamber "will not prejudge the investigation's outcome" but "the evidentiary record is impossible to ignore".

Less than a year ahead of the 2024 presidential election, the President will be fighting a Republican impeachment bid while his son Hunter Biden struggles to avoid prison in tax and gun-related cases.

But, even if the House ultimately opts to trolled Senate is all but certain to acquit

In a statement following the vote, President Biden said: "The American people need their leaders in Congress to take action on important priorities for the nation and world.

"Instead of doing their job on the urgent work that needs to be done, they are choosing to waste time on this baseless political stunt that even Republicans in Congress admit is not supported by facts.'

This year has seen President Biden's popularity fall amid still elevated inflation and intensifying Israel-Palestine war, among other factors.

An NBC News poll last month found that Joe Biden's popularity stood at its lowest in his presidency, with most voters viewing him in a "negative" light.

On the Republican side, the race has been dominated by former President Donald Trump, who is only bolstered among his voting base by the four criminal indictments he faces.

Senior Hamas leader suggests recognition of Israel

Tel Aviv Agencies

or the first time since Hamas → launched its unprecedented attack against Israel on October 7, a senior recognise the Jewish nation as part of the Palestinian unity talks.

Mousa Abu Marzouk, one of the highestranking Hamas leader who has been actively meeting global leaders to garner support, told Arab mediapersons that the official stance was that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had recognised Israel and that Hamas should follow



it. This is being seen as a move for peace from the Hamas side as the Israel military is putting grave pressure on the militant group's leadership and the possibility of its

ouster from the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has always openly sought Israel's destruction and vowed to commit similar onslaughts to the one carried out on The PLO which Palestine Authority that runs the West Bank, had recognized Israel as part of Oslo Accords signed between then PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli President Yitzhak Rabin on September 13,1993.

Rabin was assassinated in Israel in 1995 by a person who belonged to an extreme right-wing group who was against the Oslo

Israel cancels Mossad chief's Qatar trip to resume hostage talks

Jerusalem | Agencies

he Israeli government has cancelled Mossad chief David Barnea's planned trip to Qatar for the resumption of talks on a possible second hostage release deal, an informed source said on Thursday.

The 58-year-old, who became the Director of Israel's foreign intelligence service on June 2021, will not travel to Doha, where talks on the release of hostages held by Hamas militants in Gaza had taken place earlier, the source told

Israel's Channel 13 first reported on Wednesday that the country's war cabinet, by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had called off the trip.

It added that senior Israeli officials will not go to Qatar to restart negotiations.



The Mossad answers directly to the Prime Minister.

Around 240 people, from infants to octoenarians, were taken hostage during the Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7.

The Israeli Prime Minister's office believes 135 hostages remain in Gaza, 116 of whom are alive.

During the now-collapsed humanitarian pause from November 24-30, 86 Israeli and 24 foreign national hostages were released

On Tuesday, two additional bodies were Before the pause, four civilian hostages

had been released by Hamas, one Israeli soldier was rescued, and bodies of three hostages were retrieved.

Formal negotiations have not resumed since hostage talks that had been taking place in Doha broke down earlier this month.

But Israel, the US and Oatar have continued to discuss ways to try to jump start the discussions, CNN quoted sources as say-

Meanwhile, families of some of the Israeli hostages were outraged by the decision to cancel Barnea's trip and demanded

New York City Mayor says Hamas must be destroyed

ew York City Mayor Eric Adams has said that Hamas has to be destroyed. Referring to the October 7 attacks by Hamas, the Mayor in a letter to the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said: "The Hamas organization has to be destroyed. A situation where those responsible for this terrible crime have not yet been brought to justice is a failure.

The Hostages and Missing families Forum in a statement said that the New York Mayor hosted the families of the hostages at his home in New York and the occasion was marked by the lighting of the



The statement said that the families lit the Hanukkah menorah together with the Mayor. The families of the hostages thanked the Mayor for the support of President Joe Biden and the US to Israel and asked him to continue the support to

increase American pressure on Qatar and Egypt to release the hostages from Gaza. Adams said, "We are at a defining

moment, a moment when we understand the importance of light and what it symbolizes, especially after the terrible events of October 7. We want to be clear in our call: Hamas must be destroyed." "I stand with the families of the hostages who came to New York to express the demand to bring their loved ones home now. It is a failure that those responsible for these heinous crimes are not brought to justice when there are hostages in Gaza while the networks are filled with hate," he added.

Heavy snow in Beijing suspends train operations, schools remain closed

Beijing | Agencies

eijing continues to be blanketed by heavy snow On Thursday, with train operations affected schools still suspended. In response to the weather,

Beijing's railway stations canceled at least 153 trains as of 10 a.m. Thursday, reports Xinhua news agency. Primary schools, secondary schools, and kindergartens in

Beijing started suspending classes on Wednesday, and the resumption of in-person classes will be announced later, according to the Beijing Municipal Education Commission. The Beijing Meteorological

Observatory said the average precipitation in the city from 5 a.m. to midnight Wednesday was 2.7 mm, with an average of 3.1 mm in the urban area.

On Thursday, moderate to



heavy snow was forecast in the daytime and light snow at

The weather forecast also noted that the highest temperature in the city on Thursday would be minus 2 degrees Celsius, and the lowest would

be minus 5 degrees.

Following this round of snow, which is expected to end on Friday, the city will be hit by cold wave, with minimum temperatures expected to drop below minus 10 degrees at night. The city is still on an orange alert for heavy snow, a yellow alert for icy roads, and a blue alert for cold waves. In addition to Beijing, parts

Autonomous Region, Shaanxi,

the Inner Mongolia

Shanxi, Hubei, Henan, Hebei, Shandong, and Liaoning will be hit by heavy snow from Wednesday evening to Thursday evening, according to the National Meteorological Centre (NMC). The NMC also renewed a vellow alert for a cold wave,

predicting that temperatures in most parts of China will drop by 8 to 12 degrees Celsius from Wednesday evening Saturday.

In central Henan province, the provincial capital of Zhengzhou, and the cities of Kaifeng, Luoyang, and Anyang, schools were suspended on Thursday due to the extreme

lia 05

IMPLEMENTATION OF SANKALP PATRA-2023 SHOULD BE DONE IN MISSION MODE: CHIEF MINISTER DR. MOHAN YADAV

The goal of our government is to change people's lives under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Mohan Yadav gave instructions regarding the implementation of the resolution

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the aim of our government is to change the lives of people by realizing the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. The common people have expressed their trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the process of development is continuing under his leadership. Our objective is to bring the goals of development and public welfare to the ground in line with the Resolution 2023. Ensure achievement of the tar-

IMMEDIATELY, TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPON-SIVE GOVERNANCE SHOULD BE ENSURED AT EVERY LEVEL

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that all activities should be carried out in an environment of complete transparency, fairness and corruption. Good governance is paramount for the government. The goals of development and public welfare can be achieved through good governance. Prompt, transparent, accountable and responsive governance should be ensured at every level. Good governance is not just a word, we have to show it in action.



get within the time limit by starting the work in mission mode to fulfill all promises, resolutions and declarations of all departments. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was addressing a meeting organized in the ministry to provide guidance on the resolution letter of the newly

DO NOT DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the two departments should work in coordination with each other regarding the resolutions which are related to more than one department. Immediate orders should be issued with competent approval in such cases where there is no financial burden in relation to the implementation of resolutions or there is no need to take any kind of new ethical decision where financial resources are already available. In the implementation of the resolutions, separate budget provision is required, in this regard, immediately discuss with the Finance Department to ensure the availability of the necessary budget and in case of difficulty, ensure immediate coordination with the Chief Secretary. Any inquiry into the existing process of implementing resolutions requiring ethical decision-making should be brought before the Cabinet for approval as soon as possible.

formed government. Chief Secretary
Veera Rana along with all Additional
Chief Secretaries, Principal
Secretaries, Secretaries, Heads of
Departments and General Managers
of various Corporation Divisions were

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING WILL BE DONE BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY

present in the meeting.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that regular monitoring of the effective implementation of the announcements of Sankalp Patra-2023 will be done at the Chief Secretary level. A separate portal should also be created for this and the system of online feeding, monitoring and reporting of information should be ensured. This Resolution includes the guarantees given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of the state, all department heads should take their implementation seriously and prepare a roadmap to ensure the achievement of the target within the time frame. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that if there is any problem in the implementation of the points given in the resolution and in meeting the target within the time frame, then the matter should be brought to the notice

NAXALITE KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN BALAGHAT



Balaghat: A Naxalite has been killed in an encounter between police and Naxalites in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. The security forces have also recovered weapons from the spot.

According to the information received from the police, the Hawk Force team started a search operation on the night of Wednesday-Thursday after receiving information about the presence of Naxalites in the Soupkhar forest of Garhi police station area near Kanha National Park in Balaghat district. During the search operation, the security forces saw the Naxalites and started firing on them. Seeing the police action

the Naxalites ran away.
A police officer has said that after the escape of the Naxalites, when the security forces inspected the spot, the body of a Naxalite was recovered. This Naxalite has been identified as Chetu alias Madkama Hidma, resident of Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

There was a reward of about Rs 14 lakh on this Naxalite and he was active in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

CONGRESS HOLDS LEGISLATURE PARTY MEETING IN KAMAL NATH'S ABSENCE

Shivraj wrote 'Brother and uncle' in his social media bio



Team Absolute Bhopal

Pormer Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan has made a big change in his bio on social media and has written himself as 'brother and uncle'. There is no mention of Bharatiya Janata Party

anywhere in the bio.
Actually, Shivraj Singh
Chauhan is in the news after
his removal from the post of
CM. Everyone is keeping an
eye on his every activity. On
Thursday, a big change was
seen in the bio of his X
account. In this they have
described themselves as

'brother and uncle'. Chauhan has made such statements in the last few days which have become a topic of discussion in political circles. Once he wrote 'Ram-Ram' on social media and then he even said that he will not go to Delhi to ask for anything for himself, it is better to die than that.

Apart from this, after resigning the post, he said, 'Keep the chadriya as it is.' Now, 'Bhai Aur Mama' has come in his bio.

In the politics of the state, Chauhan is recognized as the maternal uncle of daughters and brother of sisters. Now, he has tried to convey the same thing through the bio of his social media account

Governor Mangubhai Patel administers oath of office to Gopal Bhargav as Protem Speaker

Team Absolute Bhopal

overnor Mangubhai Patel administered the oath of Protem Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to Gopal Bhargav at Raj Bhavan. The oath taking ceremony was held in the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Deora, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla were also present in the ceremony. The oath ceremony programme was conducted by Principal Secretary Legislative Assembly Awadhesh Pratap Singh.



On this occasion, MLAs, Chief Secretary Veera Rana, Director General of Police Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Additional Chief Secretary Vinod Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Governor D.P. Ahuja, Legislative Assembly officials and other officials were present.

Team Absolute Bhopal

adhya Pradesh Congress held a legislative party meeting at party headquarters in Bhopal on Thursday without the presence of state unit head Kamal Nath.

Kamal Nath's absent from the meeting have fueled speculations about whether the Congress would change the leadership in Madhya Pradesh or the veteran leader will continue till the Lok Sabha elections.

continue till the Lok Sabha elections.

However, Kamal Nath during a
public meeting in his home town
Chhindwara on Wednesday has said
that he has no plan to shift Delhi and
will continue to serve the people of
Madhya Pradesh.

The Congress legislatures assembled to discuss on future course of action regarding the upcoming Lok Sabha election and also to make their



consensus to select the Leader of Opposition (LoP).

Notably, the former LoP Govind

Lahar constituency of Bhind district. Several senior Congress leaders have been in race to grab this opportunity.

Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who is incharge of Madhya Pradesh and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh addressed the legislative party meeting.

Sources told IANS that during the meeting, a consensus on next state unit chief and the LoP has been made and the final decision would be taken by the central leadership.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Singh (Rahul) -- LoP from 2013 to 2018 -- told media persons that all decisions will be taken by the central leader-

ship.
Congress contested the assembly election under the leader of Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath and lost bitterly to BJP and could secure only 66 seats against 114

Politics heated up due to decision to ban open meat sale and loud loudspeakers

Team Absolute Bhopal

As soon as he took charge as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav has taken many big decisions, in which politics has heated up after the decision to ban the sale of meat and eggs in the open and playing loud loudspeakers.

While Congress has called it a malicious decision, BJP has considered it necessary. Dr. Mohan Yadav was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state on Wednesday along with two Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Deora. The first cabinet meeting was held late in the evening and it was decided that there would be no sale of meat and eggs in open places in the state. Not only this, there has been a ban on playing loudspeakers more loudly than the prescribed norms in religious places



and other events.
Along with this, instructions have also been given for necessary action.
Congress MLA from Bhopal Central Arif Masood has said that if the gov-

ernment had talked about farmers, about reducing inflation and unemployment, we too would have welcomed it. But the decision taken shows bad intentions. As far as ban on loud sound of loudspeakers is concerned, this order is not new, I have also studied the guidelines of the Supreme Court.

Regarding the ban on sale of meat in the open, Arif Masood said that there is already talk of covering (meat). This is the rule. Municipal Corporation and Municipality are responsible for this. What new and big work did the Chief Minister do on this?

BJP state president Vishnu Dutt
Sharma welcomed the decision
taken in the first cabinet of the government and said that as per the
order of the High Court, the decision
has been taken to control the noise
pollution caused by DJs and loudspeakers. Instructions have been
issued to ban uncontrolled and illegal use of loudspeakers, which will
reduce the problems of the common

Woman killed by live-in partner in Indore for refusing sex, accused arrested

Team Absolute Bhopal

A 20-year-old woman in Madhya Pradesh's Indore was killed by her live-in partner for allegedly refusing to have a physical relationship with him, police said on Wednesday.

Police made the shocking revelation three days after the body of woman was found lying in a pool of blood at the accused's residence.

As per the police, the body of the woman was found on December 9, two days after she was killed. The accused had locked the door of his house and run away.

During the investigation, police found that the victim was in relationship with Praveen Singh Dhakad and was living at his rented house in Indore.

Youth murdered with liquor bottle in lodge



Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Abhinay Vishwakarma told reporters on Wednesday that the woman was killed in the rented house in the Raoji Bazaar area on December 7 and her body was recovered by police two days later.

Dhakad, 24, who hails from Guna district, got furious when she refused to have physical relations with him and stabbed her in the neck with a pair of scissors, he said. The woman started bleeding profusely and died on the spot, said Vishwakarma.The accused panicked and fled after locking the house from outside

Police said the accused was arrested on Wednesday following a three-day-long search operation.

and also took away her

mobile phone, he added.

AIIMS Bhopal Excels at the National Biomedical Research Competition - 2023

Team Absolute Bhopal

IIMS Bhopal proudly announces the outstanding achievements of its representatives at the 4th chapter of the National Biomedical Research Competition-2023 (NBR-COM-2023), hosted by SYBS India. The highly anticipated competition unfolded at ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Alwar, Rajasthan, on December 9th and 10th, 2023, showcasing the brilliance and innovation of participants from across the nation.

Dr. Sravan JS, a Senior Resident in the Department of Forensic Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal, has been honored with the prestigious 'Young Researcher Award' in the Health Sciences category. Dr.



Sravan's groundbreaking presentation featured an innovative technique for determining the cause of death using Cardiac Biomarker POCT (Point-of-Care Testing). His exceptional contribution not only showcased his commitment to advancing medical research but also earned him a well-deserved cash prize. Furthermore, Aswini Chandran, a dedicated Ph.D. scholar in the Department of

Forensic Medicine at AIIMS

Bhopal, received the coveted

'Best Presentation Award' in

Chandran's work on Postmortem Bacteriology demonstrated a high level of expertise and garnered recognition for its excellence in the field.The success of Dr. Sravar JS and Aswini Chandran at NBRCOM-2023 reflects AIIMS Bhopal's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and excellence in biomedical research. Their accomplishments contribute not only to the institution's reputation but also to the advancement of knowledge and practices in the field of medicine. Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal has extended heartfelt congratula tions to Dr. Sravan JS and Aswini Chandran for their remarkable achievements at the National Biomedical Research Competition-2023.

Team Absolute Bhopal

sensational case of murder of a youth living in Sapna Lodge located in Ghodanakkas area of Hanumanganj police station area of the old city has come to light. On the basis of initial investigation, the charge of murder has been leveled against a young man who was living in the room next to the deceased in the lodge for the last several days, who absconded after the incident. There was a close acquaintance between the deceased and Sadenhi, and both of them often drank alcohol together. It is reported that last night, when there was a dispute between them while drinking alcohol, the accused attacked the deceased with a liquor bottle. The deceased died after his hand got cut in the attack. According to the information received from the police station, 44-year-old Amandeep Singh, son of Harkable Singh, lived in Trilanga area of Bhopal. The first wife



of Amandeep, who worked in marketing in a private company, has passed away. He is survived by his second wife, two daughters and a son. While the second wife lives abroad, their children live in the Trilanga house. Police investigation revealed that Amandeep was addicted to drinking alcohol. In his drunken state, he used to have fights with his family mem-

bers every day. Due to increasing disputes, Amandeep was staying in Sapna Lodge with a room for about one and a half months, and used to eat food in the lodge itself. In the same lodge itself, in the room adjacent to Amandeep's room, a young man named Brijwasi, a resident of Uttarakhand, was staying for the last several days. During this time they

had become quite acquainted. Police further said that on Tuesday night, Aman and Nitin were drinking alcohol together in the lodge room. While drinking alcohol, an argument broke out between the two over some issue. In the growing dispute, accused Nitin got angry and attacked Amandeep with a glass bottle. To escape, Amandeep must have moved his hand forward, due to which the vein of one of his hands was badly cut due to the bottle and he died due to rapid bleeding. After the incident, accused Nitin fled from there. Amandeep shouted for help and when the lodge staff reached the room, they saw him lying in a pool of blood. After informing the police about the incident, the hotel management immediately took Amandeep to the hospital for treatment where he died. The police have established a track and handed over the body to the family members after the PM and are actively searching for the absconding accused.



MADONNA DONS LEATHER **CORSET, STOCKING** IN RACY SNAPS

Los Angeles

op legend Madonna has stunned her fans with racy snaps on social media as she celebrated the end of her European tour dates. The 65-year-old pop icon kicked off her Celebration world tour at the O2 Arena in London on 14 October, and since then, has been impressing the audience at her sold out gigs, reports Mirror.co.uk. She has performed in Antwerp, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Barcelona, Lisbon, Paris Cologne, Milan, and Berlin, and then returned to London for

two more back-to back gigs before heading over the the

US for the next leg of her tour. As per Mirror.co.uk, Madonna shared a short clip on Instagram, highlighting the behind-the-scenes action, which included her posing alongside special guests such as her friend Stella McCartney while wearing a series of racy outfits. One ensemble was a throwback to her iconic Jean Paul Gaultier cone bra outfit, as she rocked a black corset bodysuit.

In another picture, she provocatively posed in the bathroom while wearing a militarystyle cap, and later was seen laid on a red velvet sofa wearing large sunglasses while backstage. "European photo dump.... See you tomorrow in The Big Apple!" she captioned the

Madonna is already in New York ahead of her sell-out gig, and she arrived in the city alongside three of her children, 11-year-old

daughter Estere, with her twin sister Stella and brother David, 18. The 'Material Girl hitmaker has been delighting

audiences on the European dates of her greatest hits tour, as she's brought out some of her

Tiffany Haddish charged with DUI case following arrest

Los Angeles | Agencies

ctress-comedian Tiffany Haddish, who was arrested this Thanksgiving, reportedly has been officially charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. This arrived after Haddish was collared early on Friday morning, November 24 in Beverly Hills, California, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"We responded to a call of a vehicle on the roadway at 5.45 this morning," a watch commander for the Beverly Hills Police Department told Page Six. He also noted officers were told the driver was "asleep behind the wheel."

Sources additionally told the outlet that Tiffany's car was "stopped in lanes of traffic" and not pulled over to the side. It means any vehicles that were driving in the area at that time would have had to go around her car.

According to a video obtained by TMZ, Tiffany appeared cooperative when police put her in handcuffs and walked her to the back of their vehicle. She was seen wearing a floral red and white blouse, black leggings and black sneakers.

This is not Tiffany's first DUI case. Back in January 2022, she was arrested for a DUI and improper stopping on a roadway after she appeared to be dozing behind the wheel. Despite her run-in with the law, Tiffany made light of it and joked about the arrest during another set at The Laugh Factory. Responding to an audience member who asked "what happened" last night, she said, "I prayed to God to send me a man with a job. A career. Preferably in a uniform. God answered my prayers.'

She later said that she needs to "get help." She told Entertainment Tonight a few days after the incident: "I'm going to get some help so I can learn balance and boundaries."



Taraji P. Henson wants to create 'legacy' in Hollywood

Los Angeles | Agencies

ctress Taraji P. Henson has always had to fight "tooth and nail" for her success, but she's now keen to support the next generation of black actresses. Speaking to The "Hollywood Reporter, Taraji explained: "Listen, I've been doing this for two decades and sometimes I get tired of fighting because I know what I do is bigger than me. I know that the legacy I leave will affect somebody coming up behind me.

"My prayer is that I don't want these black girls to have the same fights that me and Viola (Davis), Octavia (Spencer), we out here thugging it out. Otherwise, why am I doing this? For my own vanity? There's no blessing in that.'

Henson feels she actually has a responsibility to support younger actresses, reports femalefirst.co.uk.She shared: "I've tried twice to walk away (from the business). But I can't, because if I do, how does that help the ones coming up behind me?

The actress previously insisted that celebrities suffer "a lot" of everyday problems. The Hollywood star pointed out that the rich and famous are still real people, insisting they are not

Jennifer Aniston reveals what it was like filming steamy scene with Jon Hamm

Los Angeles Agencies

ctress Jennifer Aniston admitted scene with Jon Hamm was rather choreographed. The actress shared that she felt super comfortable going through the motions with her costar in 'The Morning Show', reports Mirror.co.uk.

In the presence of their director, Mimi Leder, Jennifer said she felt plenty supported. When they were offered, the actors declined to have an intimacy coordinator on set with them. In recent years, an intimacy coordinator has become more normal on sets in Hollywood. Jennifer told Variety

that when she asked to know more about their role, she was told:

"Where someone asks you if you're OK."

As per Mirror.co.uk, she worried that the sex scene would get more awkward and felt both actors were "seasoned" enough to figure it out. However, according to SAG-AFTRA, the role goes much further. They define the role as "an advocate, a liaison between actors and production...in regard to nudity and

simulated sex and other intimate and hyper-exposed scenes". The union strongly recommends intimacy coordinators be present for scenes involving nudity and sex.

Nonetheless, Jennifer explained to Variety in their interview that she was from the "olden days" and trusted her director and editor for guidance. Reese Witherspoon, who was also present for the conversation, dismissed the notion that the scene itself was "explicit". In terms of the more romantic side of relationships her character explores, Jennifer said she has a "bad picker" and radar when it comes to live interests

Greta Gerwig named Cannes Film Festival 2024 jury president

rector Greta Gerwig, who set the boxoffice on fire with her film 'Barbie', will preside over the jury of the 2024 Cannes Film

Festival. 'Barbie' grossed \$1.4 billion at the global box office this year and just picked up nine Golden Globe nominations, Gerwig has attended Cannes alongside her partner Noah Baumbach before, notably in 2017 when his 'The Meyerowitz Stories' premiered, but she's never presented a film there, reports

There were early talks to bring 'Barbie' to Cannes earlier this year but the timing didn't work. The Warner Bros. movie was released on July 19 and became an instant classic and the highest-grossing worldwide movie of the year. On top of leading the Golden Globe nominations, 'Barbie' is also expected to land numerous Oscar nominations.

"I love films - I love making them, I love going to them, I love talking about them. As a cinephile, Cannes has always been the pinnacle of what the universal language of movies can be," Gerwig said in a statement, accessed by Variety

"Being in the place of vulnerability, in a dark the-

atre filled with strangers, watching a brand-new film is my favourite place to be. I am stunned and thrilled and humbled to be serving as the president of the Cannes Film Festival Jury. I cannot wait to see what journeys are in store for all of us," she added.

d'Or winner Ruben Ostlund presided over the 2023 Cannes jury. As per Variety, Gerwig will be the first American female director to take on the role of jury president at the Cannes Film Festival. At the age of 40, she's also the youngest person to take on the role since Sophia Loren, who was 31 when she presided over Cannes' jury in 1966.

Two-time Palme

Other notable female jury presidents include Jane Campion in 2014 and Olivia de Havilland, Cannes' first female jury president, in

Starting out as an actor, Greta Gerwig broke through as a solo director with 'Lady Bird' in 2017. She became the fifth woman to be nominated for best director and the movie earned a total of five Oscar nominations. Her next film, 'Little Women', was also a critical hit and was nominated for five Oscars, winning best costume design. With 'Barbie', Gerwig became the most bankable female director in history.



SANGRAM SINGH EYES COMEBACK TO PROFESSIONAL TN's Kasthuri bags powerlifting gold; WRESTLING AFTER SIX YEARS

Team Absolute New Delhi

wo-time Commonwealth Heavyweight Champion Sangram Singh is set to make his comeback to professional wrestling after six years at the Dubai Pro Wrestling Championship to be held on February 24, 2024 in Dubai.

He last competed at the KD Jadhav Memorial International Khusti Championships where he won Gold after defeating Kevin Radford Jr con-

"This is the perfect platform to make my comeback after almost six years and I am looking forward to the level of competition that will be on display in February 2024 at Dubai. The aim of this fight is to predominantly inspire the youth and let the audience know that this is also a gentlemen's sport," said, Sangram Singh.

There is no age barrier both in sport and in life and everyone can achieve whatever they set their mind out for at any age. If I can even inspire one young individual through this event, it would be an honour. I want the youth to come watch, participate,



support and in turn do something to move our great country forward," he added. The event will witness a total of 5 matches including the headline event where Sangram Singh will be

competing against an opponent that will be announced soon. The other four matches will be divided into two each for both male and female

"I am excited to be associated with the sport of Wrestling for the first time. On the very first meeting with Sangram Singh, I was convinced that I wanted to be a part of this since my outlook towards the sport of wrestling and wrestlers in particular changed completely. Wrestling has brought immense pride and achievement to India and is a sport that is played by the common man. I am honoured to have given the opportunity to be a part of the growth of this wonderful sport on an international level and am hopeful that this will inspire the generation to come," said, Pravin Gupta, Industrialist and Promoter

Sports

Dubai Pro Wrestling Championship is all set to bring forth a new era of wrestling and revolutionise the way that wrestling is being perceived in the country today and to provide a platform for professionals and amateurs alike to compete at the biggest stage possible. It will also give wrestlers a chance to grapple with the best of the world and set a standard like never before in a championship

Manish hits bulls eye in shooting

Team Absolute New Delhi

asthuri Rajamani from Tamil Nadu muscled her way to gold in the elite 67kg event of the Khelo India Para Games powerlifting competition, here on Thursday.

Having represented India in the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou in October, Kasthuri came up with a massive effort of 100kg in her third attempt to seal gold. She was a runaway winner ahead of silver medallist Parul Gohil of Gujarat (64 kg) and Punjab's Sumandeep, who won bronze with 57 kg.

In the elite 73kg category, Reshma Mogil from Gujarat was a clear winner with a lift of 72kg. The silver was won by Sahista of Delhi, who lifted 58kg while the bronze medal went to Maya from Rajasthan, at 57kg.

The men's 80 kg section saw Punjab's Gursewak Singh in stunning form, improving



with 162kg, went on to lift 166 kg and then finished with 171kg to win gold. Abdul Salam from Kerala won silver with 155kg while Delhi's Honey Dabas settled for bronze with a best effort of 152kg, Karnataka's Sandesha BG kissed gold with a stupendous effort of 171kg in the elite 88kg section. Finishing second was Delhi's Jagmohan, 26kg behind at

145kg. Bronze went to

Divyesh Ladani of Gujarat,

On the other hand, Haryana's Manish Narwal continued his string of medal wins on the second day of shooting action at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, as he claimed a Gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1. The 21-year old shooter, who won the Gold medal in P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 with a Paralympic record score of 218.2 in Tokyo, and a Bronze medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1 at 2023 Para Asian Games, scored a total score of 240.2 to win his first yellow medal in the inaugural edition of Khelo India Para Games.

140kg being the best effort.

Manish, who suffers from an infirmity in his right hand ever since he was a child, attained a score on Thursday which surpassed his Goldmedal winning score of 239.7 in the same category which he had achieved at the Lima 2023 World Shooting Para Sport Championships.

Warner silences critics with century in Perth Test, enters list of top-5 run-getters for Aus in Tests

Perth | Agencies

Teteran Australia opening batter David Warner has silenced the critics with a swashbuckling century 164 off 211 balls on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan on Thursday.

The 37-year-old needed just 125 balls to reach triple figures mark. During his remarkable innings, he struck 16 boundaries and four maximums, marking his 26th career century and his first since January 2020.

En route to his incredible innings, Warner entered the top five run-getters for Australia in Test cricket, leapfrogging Matthew Hayden and Michael Clarke. In the all-time list, his big hundred helped him surpass fellow swashbucklers Sir Viv Richards and Virender Sehwag.Warner now stands fifth among Australia's highest Test run-getters with 8651 runs, trailing only Steve Smith, Steve Waugh, Allan Border and Ricky Ponting.



Warner justified Pat Cummins' decision to bat first on the Perth surface as he came out with intent. He raced to a fifty off just 41 balls, stringing a century stand with Usman Khawaja

that came at a brisk pace. While his fellow teammates were guilty of not capitalising on good starts -Smith was the next-highest scorer on the day with only 41 runs - Warner went on to notch up his 26th Test hundred that was followed by his trademark leap and celebration. After reaching his century, the 37-year-old received a couple of lifelines - first, Khurram Shahzad missed a catching opportunity, and then Sarfaraz Ahmed failed

to execute a stumping. Warner made Pakistan pay by piling on the runs and notching up 150.

The visitors finally got the better of Warner by deploying the short-ball tactic that saw the Aussie opener hole out in the deep a few overs before the end of the day's

Mitchell Marsh and Alex Carey then navigated the remaining overs without further setbacks, guiding Australia to a commanding position with 346 runs on the board and five wickets down. Warner's position in the

Test side became a subject of public debate following an explosive column from former pace ace Mitchell Johnson.Johnson Johnson, fired up debate on Warner ahead of his final Australian Test summer with a column in the West Australian, questioning over why the lefthanded opener is getting a hero's send-off while still now owning up his role in the infamous 2018 ball-tam-

Shreyas Iyer returns as Kolkata Knight Riders skipper for IPL 2024, Nitish Rana named vice-captain

Team Absolute New Delhi

wo-time IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) announced that India batter Shreyas Iyer will be returning as the side's captain for the 2024 season of the tournament, adding that Nitish Rana will be serving as his deputy.

"I believe the last season presented us with several challenges, including my absence due to injury. Nitish did a great job not only filling in for me but also with his commendable leadership. I am delighted that KKR has named him Vice Captain. No doubt it will strengthen the leadership group," said Shreyas in a statement issued by the franchise.

Rana had been appointed KKR's captain for IPL 2023 as Iyer was ruled out of the competition due to a back injury which he suffered during the fourth Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test in Ahmedabad and needed surgical intervention in United Kingdom.

Iyer would recover to be a part of India's campaign in the Asia Cup, though he didn't play after the group stage due to a back spasm. He would come back for ODIs against Australia and scored a hundred in Indore, which would set the base for him amassing 530 runs in 11 matches of ODI World Cup at an average of 66.25, including two centuries and three fifties.

Iyer was recently a member of India's 4-1 T20I series win against Australia at home and is in South Africa currently for an allformat tour. Under Rana's leadership, KKR finished at seventh place in the points table, winning six while losing eight matches to end up with 12 points.

Co-incidentally, under Iyer's leadership in IPL 2022, KKR finished at seventh place. They last made it to the playoffs in IPL 2021, where they finished as runners-up. "It was indeed unfortunate that Shreyas missed IPL 2023 due to injury. We are delighted that he's back and at the helm as Captain."

"The way he has worked hard to recover from his injury and the form he has displayed is a testament to his character. We are also grateful that Nitish had agreed to step into Shreyas's shoes last season and did a great job.

There's no doubt Nitish as Vice Captain will support Shreyas in every possible way for the benefit of #TeamKKR", said Venky Mysore, CEO of KKR.

Iver and Rana were amongst the 12 players to have been retained by KKR ahead of IPL 2024 player auction, to be held in Dubai on December 19. In the auction, KKR will be aiming to fill their 12 slots, four of which are overseas, with a purse of INR 32.7 crores.



Jacqueline Williams set to be first female umpire from National Poker Series India West Indies to stand in men's T20I full members game

St George's (Grenada) | Agencies

acqueline Williams is set to become the first female umpire from the West Indies to stand in a men's T20 International featuring two full-member teams. She will achieve this feat when she becomes an onfield umpire for the second T20I between West Indies and England at the Grenada National Stadium on Thursday.

The 47-yera-old Jacqueline will be joined on field by experienced umpire Gregory, while Leslie Reifer Jr. r will be the television umpire. The fourth umpire for the match is Patrick Gustard with Sir Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain, as the Match Referee.

"It is like a dream come true. It's a good feeling to be the first, but I hope I won't be the last. I'm truly honored to be given this amazing opportunity and I want to make sure I give my best when I take the field on Thursday. It is obvious that from what I have done so far in my career this



would be a testimony to my work," said Jacqueline to Cricket West Indies (CWI) Media. Jacqueline has stood as an umpire in five ODIs, 21 T20Is, 33

Women's ODIs and 73 Women's T20Is. She also stood as an on-field umpire for this year's Women's T20 World Cup final in South Africa. In

January 2020, Jacqueline became the first woman to officiate as the third umpire in a men's international game during the West Indies-Ireland T20I

"Standing in full-member matches is something major for me. I don't want to downplay the other international matches I officiated in before because that helped to prepare me for this. I am fully prepared."
"I am hoping that by virtue of other

young females watching matches and seeing me in the middle as an umpire, it would inspire them to participate in cricket as players and as match officials. I am happy for the strides I have made so far, and I will always do my best so that those looking on will have someone to emulate," added Jacqueline.

West Indies are leading the fivematch series 1-0 following their impressive victory by four wickets in the opening contest at Kensington Oval on Tuesday night, thanks to a superb all-round Player of the Match performance by Andre Russell.

to start from March 3

Team Absolute New Delhi

he National Poker Series India has announced its fourth edition scheduled to take place from March 3 to March 24, 2024, with a recordbreaking prize pool of INR 50 crore.

The 22-day series will feature the brightest and most enthusiastic poker players from across the country competing for medals and recognition in the Indian Poker community. Participants in this series will be competing for the largest prize pool offered during any Poker tournament, aiming to etch their names in Indian Poker histo-

ry.
The last edition of National Poker Series India,



held in 2023, received over 1.25 Lacs entries, with participants coming from across the country. The players from Maharashtra secured a pole position with a total of 49 medals whereas Delhi came close and secured the second spot with 48 medals.

Uttar Pradesh acquired (45) and Haryana (33) held the third and fourth positions respectively, a testament to the sport's growing popularity in more regions. Notably, the National Poker Series India 2023 also witnessed a 33% increase in the number of female players on the roster.It is expected that the number of entries and medal winners will exceed expectations, setting new milestones in the world of skill-based gaming in India.

Over the years, the National Poker Series India, hosted on PokerBaazi, has played a significant role in positioning Poker as a mindsport and it is widely celebrated and recognised across the Indian skill-based

INDW V ENGW: FIFTIES BY SHUBHA, JEMIMAH, YASTIKA AND DEEPTI HELP INDIA TO 410/7 AT STUMPS

Team Absolute Navi Mumbai

ebutantes Shubha Satheesh and Jemimah Rodrigues struck maiden half-centuries as did Yastika Bhatia and Deepti Sharma as India Women made a strong start to post 410/7 in 94 overs at stumps on Day1 of the one-off four-day Test against England Women at the DY Patil

Stadium here on Thursday. Shubha top-scored with 69, Jemimah was right behind with 68 in their first match and Yastika struck 66 off 88 balls in her third Test outing as India and England engaged in a thrilling cat-andmouse game, the visitors pulling back the hosts every time the hosts were trying to get on the top.

Shubha and Jemimah added 115 runs for the third wicket to rescue India from 47/2; Yastika and Harmanpreet raised 116 for the fifth wicket to propel India ahead from 190/4 and Deepti Sharma and Sneha Rana contributed 92 runs for the seventh wicket as India crossed 400 runs for the third time against England.

At stumps, Deepti Sharma was 60 not out and had Pooja Vastrakar keeping her company at 4 as India Women scored 136/2 off 27 overs in the first session, made 125/2 off 29 overs in the afternoon and added 149/3 off 38 overs

After skipper, Harmanpreet Kaur won the toss and elected to bat first on a flat pitch that offered good bounce to both seamers and spinners, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma struck a few boundaries but both were still in the limited-overs mode as they tried to reach out the ball on multiple occasions.Mandhana (17 off 12), who struck Bell for a four off an overpitched delivery on the first ball of the second over, got a lucky break when Tammy Beaumont misjudged a top edge off a short-of-length delivery, running back from and completely lost the ball and grassed a diving effort.But she could not make the most of the

opportunity as she was the first to go, falling to Lauren Bell in the sixth over, as she chopped onto her stumps as the ball bounced a bit. Shafali, who made 96 on debut for India against England two years back, followed suit, getting out for $19\ off\ 30$ balls, studded with four boundaries. She fell to Kate Cross as the experienced English pacer made a wobble-seam delivery move in a bit and evade the edge and send the off-stump

cartwheeling.Shubha and Jemimah performed the first rescue act as they raised 115 runs for the third wicket off 146 balls, scoring fifties on debut in the process. Shubha, who completed a run-aball half-century in the first session, got out for 69, hitting 13 boundaries. The 24-year-old left-hander from Karnataka struck two beautiful straight drives and a couple of pleasing cut shots to the fence as she impressed everyone with her tem-

India Women 410/7 in 94 overs (Shubha Satheesh 69, Jemimah Rodrigues 68, Yastika Bhatia 66, Deepti Sharma 60 not out, Harmanpreet Kaur 49; Lauren Bell 2-64, Nat Sciver-Brunt 1-25) against England Women.

Jemimah, who had been more sedate, completed her half-century off 82 balls and struck a flurry of shots, some of them not as assured as the majority of 10 boundaries she had struck on the day. However, she too got out at the most inappropriate moment for India, bowled by pacer Lauren Bell when a delivery wide of off-stump angled in through the gap between the bat and pad and crashed into the stumps. Her 68 came off 99 balls and was studded with 11 boundaries.

As India suffered another wobble with Shubha and Jemimah getting out within the space of 28 runs to be 190/4, Harmanpreet and Yastika guided them to safety, with the latter hitting her maiden half-century, as they raised 116 runs off 147 balls for the fifth wicket. Yastika, who struck Sophie Ecclestone for back-to-back boundaries in the 35th over, completed her half-century off 66 balls with a pulled six off Lauren Filer over backward-square-leg and followed that up with a four through backward point.





Tejasswi Prakash opens about her relationship with Karan

Team Absolute Mumbai

elevision actress Tejasswi Prakash has spoken about her relationship with her actor boyfriend Karan Kundrra and how they have set a bar for couple goals. Talking about her relationship with Karan and the fandom #TejRan have, she said, "Why do you think people love us? We weren't the most perfect couple inside the (Bigg Boss) house! We fought; we didn't speak to each other for a time period inside the house.

"Then we've patched up and been the most real couple, which is why people love us. We have never tried to portray ourselves as the most ideal couple'." She added, "We have shown how real couples are, and

real couple's fight in real world."

from the experience.

The actress said she and her beau are both "strong minded" people. She added: "Especially when two strong people are together. Karan is a very strong-minded person, and I am too. And when two strong-headed people come together, fights are bound to happen.'

Karan revealed the reason why he believes in reality shows. He said: "There's a reason I believe in reality shows like Temptation Island India: I met my partner in a reality show of this kind, and such shows test your true love. You come out stronger



When Amitabh Bachchan listened to SD Burman sing his compositions

eminiscing about the legendary music director and singer Sachin Dev Burman, megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared how he was fortunate enough to have a chance and sit with the former and listen to his compositions. S. D. Burman started his career with Bengali films in 1937, and later composed for Hindi movies. As a playback singer, he sang 14 Hindi and 13 Bengali film songs. His son, R. D. Burman, was also a celebrated music composer for Bollywood films.

In the episode 88 of the quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15', host Amitabh welcomed Ranjeet Kumar Singh, from Ramgarh, Bihar to the hot seat.

For Rs 6,40,000, he was asked: "Which music composer is the subject of a biography with the subtitle 'The Prince-Musician'?" The options given were: S. D. Burman, Khayyam, O. P. Nayyar and Madan Mohan. The correct answer was S. D. Burman. Amitabh then went on to say: "It was a tough question. The title portrays that R. D. Burman's father, Sachin Dev Burman was Tripura's erstwhile royalty. A member of the royal family and a distinguished artist. We're fortunate that I had the chance to sit with him and listen to his compositions and sing along.

"His music was prominent in old films. Yes, especially during 'Abhimaan'. It was his music and in his house here, he would sit and play music. And he would sing it too. His voice was wonderful. And he sang many of his songs like 'Sun mere Bandhu'," added the 'Piku' actor.

his girlfriend Malaika Arora.

would be the most respectful thing.

ram account to wish his ladylove on her birthday.

next level anytime soon.

"ONCE WE REACH THAT STAGE, WE

WILL COME AND TALK ABOUT IT

TOGETHER: ARJUN KAPOOR

Team Absolute Mumbai

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who graced the latest episode of the streaming chat show 'Koffee With Karan' along with actor Aditya Roy Kapur is not the one to speak on the topic of his maries of his maries. Kapur, is not the one to speak on the topic of his marriage plans with

During the course of the episode, show host Karan Johar asked Arjun

about whether he and Malaika have any plans to take their relationship to the Responding to the same, the '2 States' actor said: "I think at this point, and as

much as I love coming on your show and being as honest and sincere about it, I think this is the part of my life that right now I want to take it as it comes. I think

it's unfair to be sitting here without her and talking about the future. I think that

He further mentioned: "Once we reach that stage, we will come and talk about it

together. I'm very very happy where I am and I think we make no bones about the fact

that we survived through whatever we've had to be in this comfortable, happy space. I

don't want to speak about anything specifically right now because I think that's unfair to

A few months back, rumours about Arjun's split with Malaika after five years were doing

rounds. However, Arjun cleared the air when he posted a romantic photo of the couple on his

Sonu Sood gives sneak peek into his roller coaster ride from shoot of upcoming movie

Team Absolute Mumbai

ctor Sonu Sood has shared a behind-thescenes video from the shoot of his upcoming film ', and it shows him taking on an exciting adventure through the mountains, showcasing not only stunning landscapes, but also his dedication to a healthy and adventurous lifestyle.

Mumbai, Dec 14 (IANS) Actor Sonu Sood has shared a behind-the-scenes video from the shoot of his upcoming film, ture through the mountains, showcasing not only stunning landscapes, but also his dedication to a healthy and adventurous lifestyle.

Taking to Instagram, Sonu shared a Reel video, wherein he can be seen only wearing shorts, and riding a bullet bike. He can also be seen meeting the tourists on the way.

As the engine roars amid majestic peaks, Sonu blends adrenaline-pumping adventure with unwavering fitness. The mountainous terrain transforms from a picturesque backdrop to an active playground, where he pushes the boundaries as a fitness enthusiast.

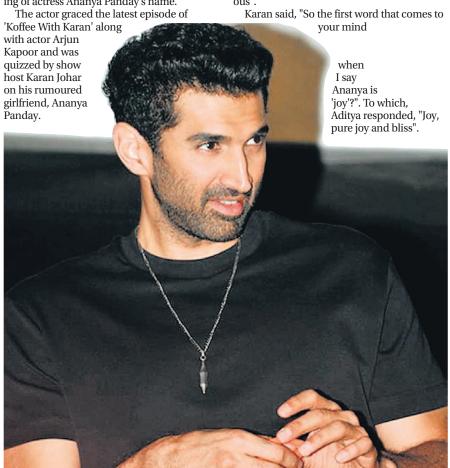
On winding roads and challenging elevations, Sonu revealed the rugged beauty of the landscape and his commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Each twist and turn symbolizes the adventure of

JOY, BLISS THE WORDS WHICH COME TO ADITYA'S MIND HEARING ANANYA'S NAME

Team Absolute Mumbai

ollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur, who was recently seen in 'The Night Manager', has said that joy and bliss are the words that come to his mind on mentioning of actress Ananya Panday's name.

KJo said that he had asked Ananya during a previous episode of the show about her equation with Aditya to which Ananya had replied, saying, "I'm feeling Ananya Coy Kapur". Taking from that, Aditya said that he is "Aditya Joy Kapur". He said, "I'm quite joy-



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY Sonam Bajwa

Kerala Chalachitra Academy in disarray as members seek removal of chairman

Team Absolute Mumbai

rouble is brewing in the premier Malayalam film body - Kerala State Chalachitra Academy as nine out of the 15member board have sought the removal of Renjith as the chairman of the academy.

This meeting took place on the penultimate day of the 28th International Film Festival of Kerala. When this meeting was going on, Renjith was present in his room next door to the meeting venue. For a while

things have been blowing hot and cold in the academy and things flared up when award winning film director Biju resigned from the post of director of the Kerala State Film Development

Corporation. The reason why he quit were the curt remarks made by Renjith about Biju's film that was screened at the ongoing film festival.

Incidentally, after Biju protested, State Minister of Films Saji Cherian intervened and promised that things will be sorted out.

Now with the festival to end on Friday and when the academy gets back to its routine work, this issue is certainly going to surface as the first shot has

been fired when the majority of the board of the academy want Renjith to step down.

Owned, Published and Printed by Yogendra Chaturvedi at M/S Dangat Media Pvt. Ltd. Marwah Estate, Mehra Centre, Sakinaka, Mumbai. Pin-400053 Editor- Yogendra Chaturvedi (*responsible for selection of news under PRB act), Advisory Editer - Sarika Chaturvedi RNI Regn. No.- MAHENG/2013/53548. Postal Regn. No.- MH/MR/N/261/MBI/13-15. Phone: +022-49635590, www.absoluteindianews.com.E-mail: absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com (Bhopal will be the jurisdiction of any dispute.)